

○ DECEMBER | ○ 2019



# Cursillo *forward*



Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego  
Our Mission is to Christianize Environments and Develop Lay Leadership  
Please visit our Cursillo website for more information at [www.sdcursillo.org](http://www.sdcursillo.org)

***SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EDITION***



***FROM THE SAN DIEGO CURSILLO SECRETARIAT***

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE CURSILLO SECRETARIAT PRESIDENT**

The Theme this year is “Friends of Jesus love one another, just as He loves us (John 15: 12–13, 17).

Hard to believe it is now Advent. In four weeks, we will have Christmas. Advent is not covered in the four Gospels. Luke’s Gospel is the only one that covers any time before the birth of Jesus. This is where we get the stories of Mary being visited by the angel Gabriel, and then visiting Elizabeth. We are left waiting with Mary throughout the Advent season for the birth of Jesus.

So, while I wait, I will tell you what has happened since the last newsletter. We had Cursillo Weekend#145 for 13 candidates followed by the Day of Deeper Understanding (DODU) a few weeks later. We then welcomed the new members into the larger community at the Grand Ultreya at St Andrew’s, La Mesa. At the Grand Ultreya, we also had elections for three lay candidates and one clergy candidate for the Secretariat. Fr. Paul Gambling as clergy, Sunny Landry, James Ambasing and Craig Noble for lay members. The President for 2020 is Isabel Lynn and the next newsletter’s Presidents Article will be from her. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a safe Happy New Year. Until the next newsletter, keep Living the Fourth Day (L4D).



Secretariat President  
Craig Noble

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN CURSILLO SPIRITUAL ADVISOR**

One of the Greatest Prayers

*Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*

*Amen*

This collect for the First Sunday of Advent is one of the greatest prayers ever written. Found in the Book of Common Prayer, page 211, it focuses on both the humility and majesty of Christ. Jesus Christ came in “great humility” during his first coming in Bethlehem and will come again in “glorious majesty” in his second coming at the end of time. The contrast between **great humility** and **glorious majesty** is very important. Jesus came to us in his birth in the manger in great humility on that first Christmas morning. Our salvation depends on us welcoming the humble Jesus into our hearts with great humility ourselves. Only people who can humble themselves before Jesus will be saved. And only those who humble themselves before Jesus will be able to participate in his glorious majesty when he comes again.

The first parts of the prayer focus on **humility**:

“Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness.”

Only by God’s grace can we cast away the works of darkness. We must make a decision: to live our lives in God’s grace or to live our lives separated from God. If we live our lives separated from God, we live in darkness, not knowing God’s grace, trying to find life in all the wrong places, stumbling and falling in the dark. Only by grace can we see our need to cast away the works of darkness, and only a humble heart has room for God’s grace. The humility focus is based on Romans 13:11-14. This passage also contains some examples of works of darkness.

“Put on the armor of light.”

Theologically speaking, light is God’s presence and revelation given to us in His son, Jesus Christ. When we have the presence and revelation of Christ in us, we have God’s armor to beat back the works of darkness. Only a person with a humble and repentant heart can take off the clothes of darkness and put on the armor of light.

“Now in the time of this mortal life.”

The word “now” means “in the present moment.” God is breaking into the present moment calling us to live in the light of Christ. Our current life on earth is a test. Through our free will, we will decide to humble ourselves before Jesus, and let the presence and revelation of Christ lift us into a new life and a new world. In the midst of our problems in “this mortal life,” we must see the larger life that Christ wants to bring to us. Now is the time to live this larger life!

All of the above are based on Romans 13:11-14.

The second parts of the prayer focus on ***glorious majesty***:

“he shall come again in his glorious majesty.”

The second coming reveals the divine glory of Jesus and his divine kingship over all things. The second coming also brings to completion and perfection the process of salvation. Those that have lived their life humbly before Jesus will welcome Christ’s second coming. Those who have lived a life based on pride and selfishness will fear Christ’s second coming.

“to judge both the living and the dead”

When Jesus comes again our hearts and our works will stand under his judgement. Each person’s life will be exposed for what it really is. Those who have lived for their own glory on earth, rather than live a life to glorify Christ, will have their false glory stripped away. All that is false and evil will be stripped away. The truth about ourselves will become visible. Only what is true and good will survive. The true significance of our lives will be seen. Those who have lived a life in humility before Christ will rejoice at the coming of Christ and look forward to living with Christ in his heavenly kingdom.

That “we may rise to the life immortal”

When live in humility with Christ on earth, he will raise us up in resurrected bodies that will live in his glory for ever and ever. The life on earth was a short test of our willingness to humble and submit ourselves to Jesus. Our lives in heaven will be forever and this is the magnificent life that we have been called to live.

This second coming parts of this prayer are based Mark, Chapter 13.

I hope that you will join me in praying this powerful prayer during this season of Advent. I hope that you will enter into the humility of Christ’s first coming and be excited and expectant about the glorious majesty of Christ’s second coming. Let Christ come to you this Advent.

Your friend in Christ,

Father George

Diocesan Cursillo Spiritual Advisor

## **Fourth Day News/Activies**



**A new command  
I give you:  
Love one another.  
As I have loved you,  
so you must love  
one another.**

**John 13:34**

**What does LOVE look  
like?**

**How does Jesus want us to LOVE?**

### **Back To The Mountain**

Ever wish you could just go to the mountains and relax with friends? Here is your chance.

Back to the Mountain is a time for community, laughter, three talks with discussion, lots of free time, a Saturday Night Movie and Eucharist on Sunday. It's a great way to wind down after Christmas.

BTTM is open to all persons who have attended a Cursillo weekend or equivalent in another faith expression.

It will start at 4PM on Friday, Jan 10<sup>th</sup> and end at 11:30AM on Sunday, Jan 12<sup>th</sup>.

Attention Musicians... Saturday afternoon, some of the musicians will be looking at some potential new songs for the songbook. You don't want to miss this.

Get your application in soon.

Blessings, Amber and Humberto Garcia and Kit Chevalier

***BTTM APPLICATION ON LAST PAGE***

## **Impactful Witness, Echo, and Scriptural Response talks highlight a spirit-filled Grand Ultreya at St. Andrew's**

**The fall Grand Ultreya was held on November 23, 2019 at St. Andrew's, La Mesa. Almost 40 people attended and took part in good and plentiful food, fellowship, music, group reunion, Secretariat Elections, and the sharing of God's love and message with others.**

**The music leader, Alex Tuttle, and her cast of eight other musicians led the crowd in enthusiastic music that lifted the spirits of all. But the witness talks and Fr. Ed Busch's scriptural response touched deeply the hearts of all who were there to hear.**

**The guest speaker, Herb Kelly, (my brother-in-law), shared how he was called over many years of witnessing the plight of homeless people, to finally do something effective about it. He felt compelled to do something that would get some of these people "out of the dirt." He learned that most homeless people do not get enough sleep because of the insecurity of not having a safe shelter for sleep. Further, that if they could get good sleep for at least a month's time, their minds would change and improve so that they could start functioning again. He just didn't know what he could do about it until a couple of years ago when he saw a group of small "casitas" or shelters that were set on a lot which St. Luke's Episcopal Church uses as a garden. He thought that those shelters were something he could build with his hands. He shared his thought with a friend who told him about the Amikas Project. He got involved with Amikas and within six months was on the Board of that non-profit organization. He shared about a project that is being built at the Meridian Baptist Church campus in El Cajon. This project is designed to provide transitional housing for homeless mothers and their children.**

**Alex Tuttle gave a brief Echo where she shared how she shares the love of Christ with homeless people she encounters near her work in Downtown San Diego. She explained that people who do not get acknowledged by others-- who do not hear themselves called by their name lose the sense of their humanity. Over time she stepped out in faith and engaged some homeless people whom she recognized near her work. After some time she was able to learn their names and would greet and call them by their names. One day as Alex exited her work's office building carrying a camera to take some pictures for her work, she was greeted by one of her new friends. He posed and asked that she take a picture. She snapped a picture of him and later provided him with a print of the picture. His reaction was one of surprise, joy and pride. Amen.**

**Fr. Ed Busch thanked Herb for reminding us that faith and professed love of God and love for others lacks substance unless we answer the call to take resolute action when faced with real people with real needs for whom we can do something to help. Herb answered the call in a real way. He showed the love of Jesus, by his decision to act by using his mind, knowledge, and skill to provide housing for these people in need. In the same way Alex answered the call to provide loving acknowledgement to people who are starkly visible, but who are usually treated as if they are invisible. Fr. Ed noted James who said that faith without works is useless. (James 2:20) Fr. Ed exhorted us with this commission from Isaiah 6:8 "And I heard the voice of the Lord say, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?'"**

**And we all said, "Here I am Lord, send me!"**

**By the way, the results of the Secretariat Election are as follows: Elected 1 Clergy member: Fr. Paul Gambling, Yuma, Arizona; Elected 3 Lay members: Sunny Landry, Good Shepherd, Bonita; James Ambasing, St. Matthew's, National City; and, Craig Noble, Good Shepherd, Bonita**

**Next Ultreya: January 18, 2020, 2:00PM at St. Paul's, Yuma, Arizona**

**Ultreya!**

**Ruben Rodriguez**

## **CURSILLO WEEKEND #146**

JESUS SAID: "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD. I KNOW MY SHEEP AND THEY KNOW ME." John 10:14

One Bread, One Body/ Un pan, Un cuerpo <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xgebiXpGJnw>

**SAVE THE DATES: #146 WEEKEND: MARCH 26-29, 2020**

**#146 DAY OF DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: APRIL 18, 2020**

**#146 Rector: [ginnykrodriguez@gmail.com](mailto:ginnykrodriguez@gmail.com)**



PHOTOGRAPHS OF CURSILLO WEEKEND #145 MANANITAS AND OPEN CLAUSURA – *BY ROB CONSTANTINE*



## **PRE-CURSILLO**

### **Make a friend—Be a friend—Bring a friend to Cursillo!**

**NOW** is the time to begin thinking about the next weekend and who you would like to sponsor. Since moving to Pine Valley, our Spring Weekends have been earlier than in the past so there is no time to lose. We (the Pre-Cursillo Committee and the team) need to know who is coming 4 weeks before the weekend starts to adequately prepare.

### **Dates to Remember**

- **March 26—Cursillo #146** begins (We look for 25-30 candidates from a variety of churches every weekend.)
- **February 26—Last day** to get your applications in.
- **January 21—Cursillo Sunday** at your parish. Take advantage of this day to promote the ministry, create interest and curiosity, and get a commitment from those you have already invited. And if you haven't already—**START THOSE APPLICATIONS!**
- **TODAY**—Yes, even during the busy holiday season, you can be making a friend and being a friend.

Talk to your parish priest first about the person you would like to sponsor, invite and encourage them to attend, pester as necessary and...

### **Bring a friend to Cursillo!**



Susan Miller  
Pre-Cursillo Chair





## Cursillo events calendar

• 2020	More Information Click <a href="#">Link</a>	Directions Click <a href="#">Link</a>	Click <a href="#">Link</a> to e-mail POC	<a href="#">Return to top</a>
DATE	Description	Location	POC	Time/Day
Jan-10-20 to Jan-12-20	<a href="#">Back to the Mountain</a> (Click here for Application)	<a href="#">Pine Valley Bible Conference Center</a>	<a href="#">Kit Chevalier</a>	4:00 PM Friday to 11:30 AM Sunday
Jan-18-20	<a href="#">Ultreya</a>	<a href="#">St. Paul's Yuma, AZ</a>	<a href="#">Ultreya Committee</a>	Time TBA Pot Luck Time TBA Ultreya
Jan-19-20	Cursillo Sunday (Tell About Cursillo)	All Churches	<a href="#">Craig Noble</a>	All Services
Jan-25-20	<a href="#">Cursillo #146 (Coed)</a> 1 <sup>st</sup> Team Meeting	<a href="#">St. Phillip's Lemon Grove</a>	<a href="#">Ginny Rodriguez</a>	8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
TBD	Secretariat Retreat	Home of Cursillista	<a href="#">Isabel Lynne</a>	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Jan-27-20	Forward Deadline		<a href="#">News Letter Editor</a>	COB

## PALANCA REQUESTS

### JANUARY

1/10-12, Back to the Mountain, San Diego, [kmsopsinger@yahoo.com](mailto:kmsopsinger@yahoo.com)

1/31-2/2, Retreat, South Carolina, Camp St. Christopher, [Hmkilp1@gmail.com](mailto:Hmkilp1@gmail.com)

## **2019 SECRETARIAT LAY MEMBERS**

Name	Email	Function	Term Exp.
Craig Noble	craignoble@cox.net	2019 President, ECM Liaison	2019
Ruben Rodriguez	rodriguez_ruben@msn.com	Rector Support Team, Outreach, Ultreyas	2021
Susan Miller	miller.sv@sbcglobal.net	Pre-Cursillo Chair, Music Coord	2020
Humberto Garcia	ambrsunny2@aol.com	4 <sup>th</sup> Day Chair	2020
Mike Jewett	hdbg90@hotmail.com	3 Day Weekend, Vice Chair	2021
Kit Chevalier	kmsopsinger@yahoo.com	Publicity, Music, Parish Reps.	2019
Judy Brown	Jbrown3944@aol.com	Treasurer	2021
Isabel Lynne	<a href="mailto:ilynne1700@yahoo.com">ilynne1700@yahoo.com</a>	2020 President Elect, Palanca	2020
Rachel Ambasing	rachel.ambasing@gmail.com	Secretary, Sponsorship, Rector #145	2019

## **2019 SECRETARIAT CLERGY MEMBERS**

Name	Email	Function	Term Exp.
Rev. George Calvert	gcalvert@berkeley.edu	Diocesan Spiritual Advisor	Bishop Apnt'd
Rev. Carlos Garcia	carlangas1986@cs.com	Assistant Spiritual Advisor	Bishop Apnt'd
Rev. Paul Gambling	gfrpaul@gmail.com	Assistant Spiritual Advisor	2019
Rev. Pam Rieger	deaconpam@stdunstans.org	Assistant Spiritual Advisor	2021
Rerv. Peter Sickles	psickles@msn.com	Assistant Spiritual Advisor	2021

## **2019 SPECIAL CURSILLO SERVANTS**

Name	Email	Function
Larry Salvadori	lasalvadori@yahoo.com	Servant Community Convener/ Forward Editor
Debbie Kistler	dk.outoflove@cox.net	Historian, Social Media
Jon Turley	turley.jonixxi@gmail.com	3-Day Weekend Chair
Ed Embick	sueanded@san.rr.com	Communications Chair / Webmaster
Shell Pierce	roaminchristian@mindspring.com	Alternate Webmaster

## **CURSILLO CORNER – LOVE DONATIONS**

The Cursillo community accepts donations year-round. These donations allow us to set up “scholarships” to help defray the cost of sponsoring new Cursillistas and workers, pay our bills, support ministries, and the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry. If you’d like to make a Christmas Gift to Cursillo, please sent it to:

Judy Brown – Treasurer

51 Viejas Grade Road

Alpine, Ca. 91901-1605

Checks made out to: Cursillos in Christianity

**PLEASE CONSIDER CURSILLO AS A MEMBER OF YOUR  
FAMILY WHEN PRAYING  
ABOUT THE MAGNITUDE OF YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT  
DONATION TO CURSLLO**

***MERRY CHRISTMAS - 2019***



***THE CURSILLO SECRETARIAT WISHES ALL OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS  
A VERY BLESSED MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR***

FROM:

FR. GEORGE CALVERT; FR. PAUL GAMBLING; FR. CARLOS GARCIA; REV. PAM RIGER, FA. PETER SICKLES, FR.. RICK SHOWWALTER; DEBBIE KISTLER; JILL McGREW; MIKE JEWETT, RUBEN RODRIGUEZ; LARRY SALVADORI; JUDY BROWN; JAMIE WOOD; ISABEL LYNNE; ED EMBICK; SUSAN MILLER; SHELL PIERCE; JON TURLEY; MIGUEL COSIO; KIT CHEVALIER; CRAIG NOBLE; RACHEL AMBASING; HUMBERTO GARCIA; AND MANY OTHER PRAYER WARRIORS; SUPPORTERS; DONATORS; AND FRIENDS.



**A new command  
I give you:  
Love one another.  
As I have loved you,  
so you must love  
one another.  
John 13:34**

## Back to the Mountain

January 10 –12, 2020

*HOSTED BY:* Kit Chevalier Amber Garcia Humberto Garcia

**Saturday Night Entertainment –The Movie: “Oh, God!”**

**Where:** Pine Valley Bible Conference Center, 8668 Pine Creek Road, Pine Valley, CA 91962

**When:** 4:00pm Friday, January 10 – 11:30am Sunday, January 12, 2020

**Who:** All Cursillistas (and adults who have been on an equivalent three-day weekend)

**Cost:** \$140 per person before 12/27/2019 or \$145 after 12/27/2019. Last day to register is January 4 (No refunds after January 4 if you are unable to attend).

There will be singing, activities, talks, laughter, and tons of free time to enjoy  
the beautiful camp and each other. **We hope you’ll join us!**

**Mail applications and payments to:** Kit Chevalier, 3836 Demus St, San Diego, Ca. 92115  
(858) 382-8332 [kmsopsinger@yahoo.com](mailto:kmsopsinger@yahoo.com)

Attach application below and mail with payment. Please make out checks to: Cursillos in Christianity

Name(s)	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Phone:	# of Reservations:      Male [    ]      Female [    ]
Total Amount Enclosed:	I /we will attend Friday dinner: Yes [    ]      No [    ]
List any special dietary, or accommodation, needs:	

